

## CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I:

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wherein:

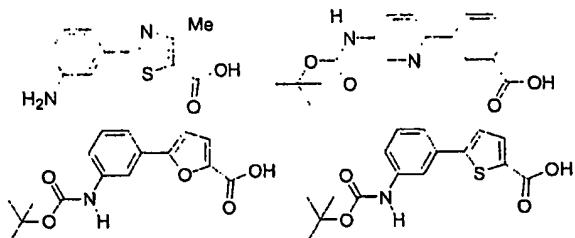
Z is H or an amino protecting group;

Z' is OH, a protected or activated hydroxyl group or Cl;

10 A is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group;

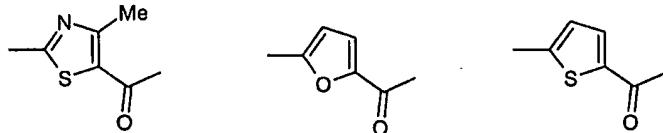
B is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group;

except for the following compounds:



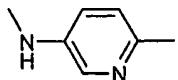
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2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein when B is phenylene with an -NH- β to the bond between A and B, then -A-CO- is not:

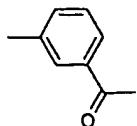


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3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein when -NH-B- is:



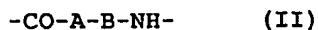
then -A-CO- is not:



4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein Z' is a protected hydroxyl group.

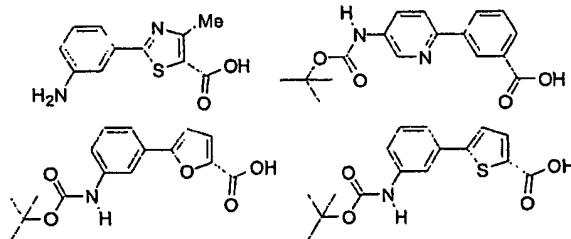
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein A and B are independently selected from phenylene, and arylene groups derived from C<sub>5</sub>-heteroaryl groups having one or two heteroatoms.

6. A polyamido moiety comprising at least one unit of formula 10 III:



wherein:

15 A is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group;  
 B is an optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene group;  
 except for the following compounds:

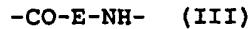


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7. A polyamido moiety according to claim 6, wherein said unit of formula II may be bound to one or more other units selected from:

- (i) units of formula II; and
- (ii) amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl units of formula III:

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wherein E is either optionally substituted C<sub>5-20</sub> heteroarylene (G) or C<sub>6-10</sub> heteroarylene-C<sub>5-20</sub> arylene (K).

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8. A polyamido moiety according to either claim 6 or claim 7, wherein A and B are independently selected from phenylene, and

arylene groups derived from C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryl groups having one or two heteroatoms.

9. A compound comprising a polyamido moiety according to any one  
5 of claims 6 to 8.

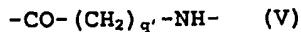
10. A compound according to claim 9, having a formula IV:



10 wherein:

Z'' is OH or a protected hydroxy group;

each T is independently selected from units of formulae II, III or  
V:



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wherein:

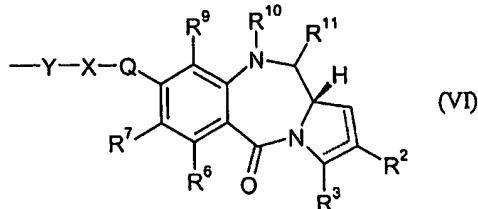
q' is from 1 to 3;

n is from 1 to 10;

q is from 1 to 3; and

20 R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl.

11. A compound according to claim 9, comprising a  
pyrrolobenzodiazepine moiety of formula VI:



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and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs  
thereof, wherein:

the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond  
between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

30 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -  
R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO<sub>2</sub>-R, CO<sub>2</sub>R and COR;

R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me<sub>3</sub>Sn and halo; where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-20</sub> heterocyclyl and C<sub>5-20</sub> aryl groups;

- 5      or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together form a group -O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-O-, where p is 1 or 2; R<sup>10</sup> is a nitrogen protecting group and R<sup>11</sup> is either O-R<sup>15</sup>, wherein R<sup>15</sup> is a hydroxyl protecting group, or R<sup>15</sup> is OH; or R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> together form a double bond between N10 and C11; Q is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;
- 10     X is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond; Y is either NH or C(=O).

12. A compound according to claim 11, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is H.

- 15     13. A compound according to either claim 11 or claim 12, wherein R<sup>6</sup> is selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH<sub>2</sub>, nitro and halo.

- 20     14. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein R<sup>7</sup> is independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR, NRR' and halo.

15. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein R<sup>10</sup> is BOC, Troc or alloc.

- 25     16. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein R<sup>15</sup> is THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.

17. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> together form a double bond between N10 and C11.

- 30     18. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein Q is NH, O or a single bond.

- 35     19. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 18, wherein X is a single bond or C<sub>1-7</sub> alkylene.

20. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 19, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is H.

21. A compound according to any one of claims 11 to 20, wherein 5 R<sup>2</sup> is R.

22. A compound according to any one of claims 9 to 21 for use in a method of therapy.

10 23. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any one of claims 9 to 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15 24. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 9 to 21 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative disease.

20 25. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 9 to 21.

26. Use of a compound of formula I, as defined according to claims 1 to 5, for the synthesis of a polyamido moiety as defined according to claims 6 to 8.